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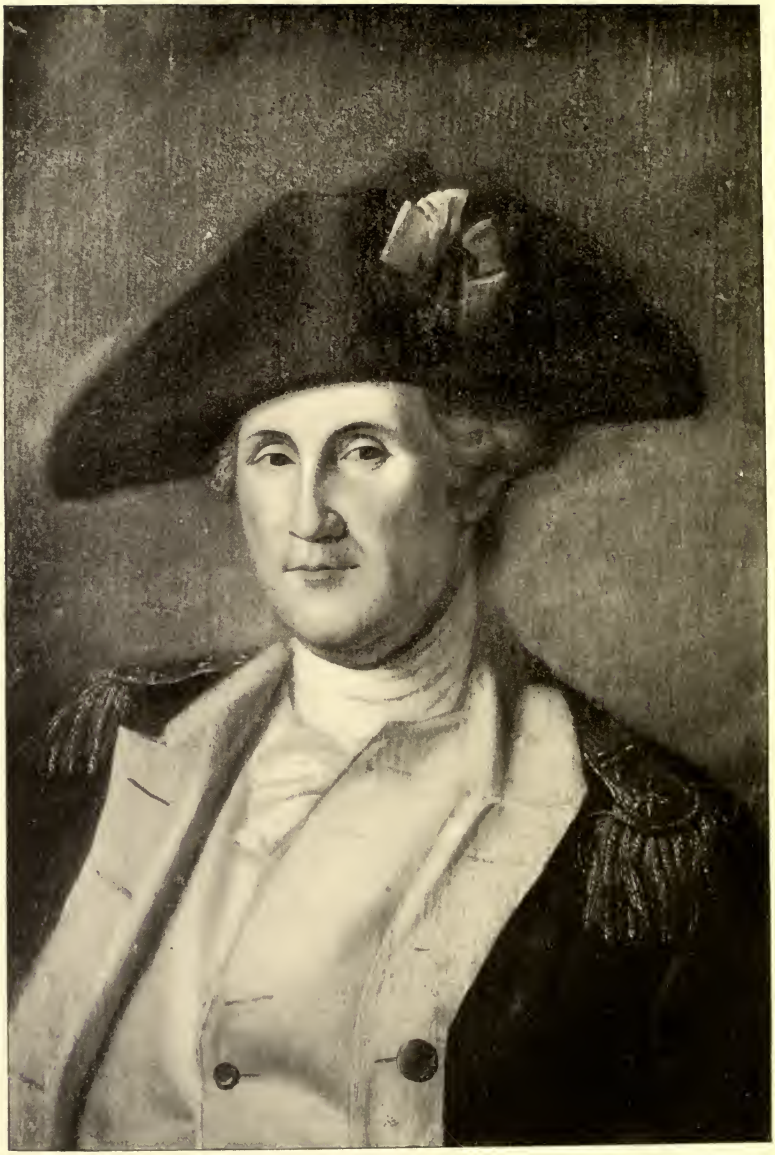
MAIN

HISTORIC LETTERS

HISTORIC LETTERS

OF THE
UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA



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A Portrait of George Washington.

Painted at Valley Forge, 1778, by Charles Willson Peale. Presented to the Chester County Cabinet by John Neagle in 1841. Now the property of the West Chester State Normal School.

HISTORIC LETTERS

FROM

THE COLLECTION

COMPLIMENTS OF

G. M. PHILIPS,

PRINCIPAL OF STATE NORMAL SCHOOL,

WEST CHESTER, PA.

PHILADELPHIA

PRINTED BY J. B. LIPPINCOTT COMPANY

MDCCCXCVIII

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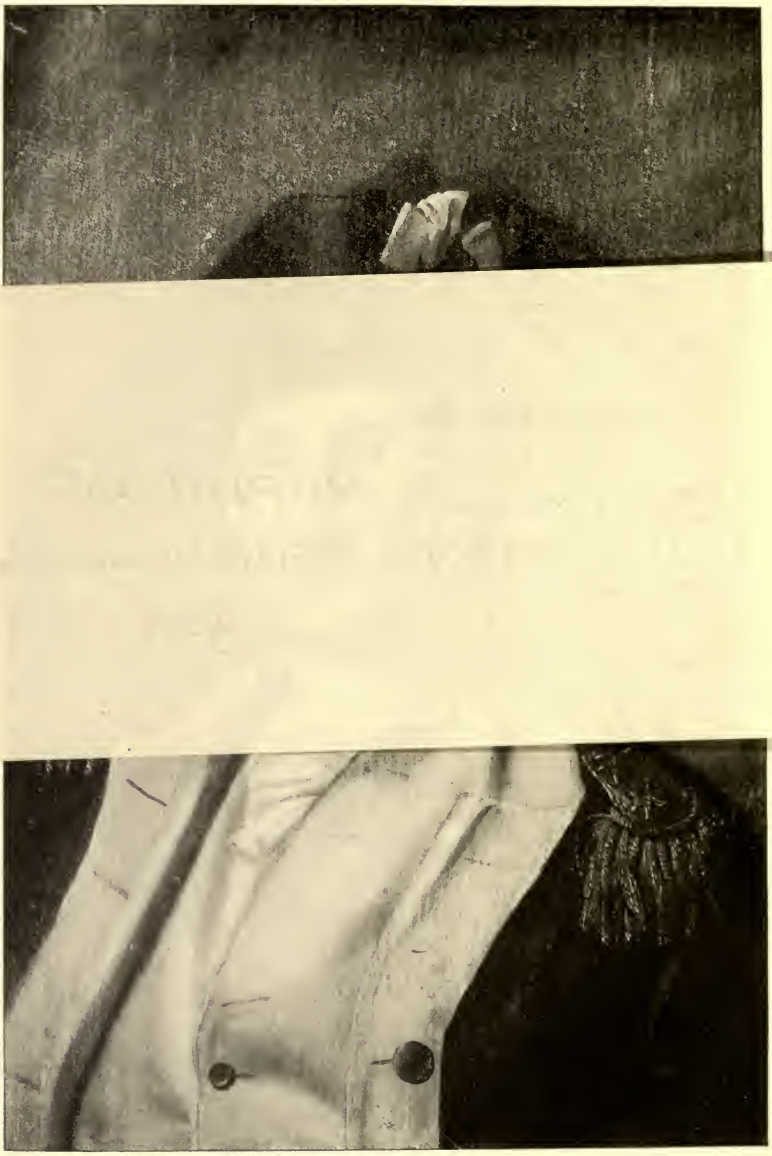

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HISTORIC LETTERS

FROM

THE COLLECTION

OF THE

WEST CHESTER

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL

Compiled by GEO. MORRIS PHILIPS

PRINCIPAL

PHILADELPHIA

PRINTED BY J. B. LIPPINCOTT COMPANY

MDCCCXCVIII

[For Private Distribution]

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MAIN

Preface.

THE following letters are selected from the collection of autograph letters and documents belonging to the State Normal School, at West Chester, Pennsylvania. As will be noticed, most of them are of the Revolutionary period. These are a part of General Anthony Wayne's letters, and were, with others, given by his son, Isaac Wayne, to the Chester County Athenæum, a literary association organized in West Chester in 1827. Later they became a part of the collection of the Chester County Cabinet of Natural Science. And when the West Chester State Normal School was opened in 1871, together with the other possessions of the Cabinet, they became the property of the School. The others are from a collection of the correspondence of General Persifer F. Smith of the United States Army, which was presented to the School by Robert E. Monaghan, of West Chester.

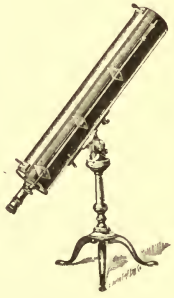
These letters are now published in order to prevent the loss of their contents by any possible accident to the originals, and also with the hope that they may be of some interest, and possibly of some value, to students of American history. It may be of interest to add that the original copies of these letters are all entirely in the handwriting of the senders, with the exception of those from

Zachary Taylor and Jefferson Davis, which are merely signed by their authors. It is scarcely necessary to add that as regards spelling, punctuation, capital letters, abbreviations, etc., the letters have been reproduced exactly as written.

The compiler desires to acknowledge the aid of Miss Alice Cochran, the efficient librarian of the School, in preparing these letters for the printer.

G. M. P.

State Normal School,
West Chester, Pennsylvania,
November 1, 1897.



General Anthony Wayne's Telescope.

Presented by Isaac Wayne to the Chester County Cabinet of Natural Science in 1831. Now the property of the West Chester State Normal School.

Historic Letters.

BENEDICT ARNOLD TO GENERAL WAYNE.

Albany Nov^{r} 25th 1776.

Dear Colonel

I received yours of the 20th Ins$^{t.}$ & am much obliged to you for your Caution, which I assure you, was needless, you are right to suppose I will Act the Soldier, necessity obliges.—The Enemy have taken Fort Washington, (after an obstinate Defence), & made the Garrison, consisting of Near Two Thousand Men Prisoners, the, Loss on neither side is ascertained, the Enemies is supposed to be very Considerable, as, our Troops disputed their lines with them Two or three hours—The Enemy have Crossed over, to the Jersey shore, & a great Fireing has been heard, Near Bergen, Rumor Says. Fort Lee is Also taken, this wants Confirmation, Col^{o} De Haas & Several Regiments are gone of this morning to Join Gen^{l} Washington on the Jersey side, Poor, is also ordered, there, as probably will be all the Troops who come from Tyonderoga——

Nothing can be determined, with Respect to a Fleet untill, the determination of Congress is known, The Captains who, have engaged for the Warr, must be supplied with, Money to Reinlist, their Men, & pay of those whose times are,

expired—I could wish a Captain Retained for each Vessell, to Inlist as many Men as possible, one half of whom Officers & Men might go home on Furloughs for one Month as soon as the Ice [thickens?] & the others in turn—

To'morrow I set of to Join Genl. Washington, & shall be glad to hear from you from Time to time——

I am with Comp^{s} to the Gentlemen with you

Dear Colonel

Your obed Hble Serv$^{t.}$

B Arnold

PS. This minute an Express is Arived from Gen^{l} Washington who confirms the Acc^{t} of Fort Washingtons being taken, & says Fort Lee has bin Abandoned by our People after takeing out the Stores Cannon &c &c

B A

(Outside address)

On Publick Service

To

Colonel Antony Wayne

Commanding at Ticonderoga.

Albany
B Arnold

GENERAL GATES TO GENERAL WAYNE.

Philadelphia 18th March 1777.

Dear Wayne

I sincerely wish you Joy of being Appointed a Brigadier General and of the Good News received Yesterday from Doctor Franklyn, who writes from France the begining of December

last, & Says a General War in Europe is upon the Point of being Declared—I have been Labouring to procure You some Respite from the Toils you have undergone, and once more a happy meeting with Mrs Wayne, the Congress have at length Resolved that One Major General be immediately sent to Albany, Two Brigadiers General to Tyonderoga, One to Benington & Steensborough, and One to Number 4. when those Arrive at Ty. I hope you will set out Immediately for Philadelphia—

Colonel Wood acquaints me, that Major, now Lieut: Col: Hay, has not expended any of the 5000 Dollars I left in his Hands, in the necessary Use, & Services of the Garrison, for which, it was solely intended: I desire you will in my Name Demand, not only the reason why my Orders were not complyed with, but an Accompt how that Particular Sum was disposed of.

The Enemy have hitherto made a miserable hand of it in the Jerseys, by Killed, taken, Desertion, & Death, they must have lost 3000 Men at least—This City seems Quieted from its Fears, as it is Generaly believed, it is now impracticable for British Army to make its way here—Various are the Reports of the part to be Acted upon both Sides the ensuing Campaign, nay, it is even immagined by some, that the whole British Force is going to Virginia, this, I will only believe when I see it, why they should depart from their Original plan I cannot conceive. depend upon it when they do, their Ruin will only be the more speedy & Certain.

You would Frequently have heard from me had I been certain of a safe conveyance to your Hands. This goes with the Congress Packet, which the Messenger is Ordered to deliver himself—Messengers of Congress are at length to be establishd from this City to Tyonderoga, and this is not the Only change you will see, that I am satisfied you will not disapprove—believe me ever with every Friendly Wish

Your Affectionate
Humble Servant
HORATIO GATES

I rejoice your Caissons, & bridge are in such Forwardness, cannot a Boom at the Old place, be constructed in that manner, or in one more Trim, if possible: if so, lose no Time in doing it—— begin a Large Garden, as soon as the Ground will admit—

(GENERAL WAYNE.)

GENERAL PICKERING TO GENERAL WAYNE.

HEAD QUARTERS AT SKIPPACK Sept. 30. 1777.

Sir,

His Excellency the Commander in Chief directs that you march your division to-morrow morning as early as possible to this Camp, to the ground allotted for you in the rear.

I am, Sir, your h'ble Servant
TIM PICKERING A. G.

GENERAL MIFFLIN TO GENERAL WAYNE.

York Town 24 April 1778

My dear General Wayne

The Reverend Mr McCurdy, who has exerted himself in the Defence of his Country in a very Disinterested Manner, wishes to be establisd as a Chaplain in a Brigade under your Command and has applied to me for that purpose—

I have the best Opinion of his Zeal and good & upright Intentions for our Salvation as a people; free and independent we shall probably be with Respect to the powers of Darkness on this Globe and it will not I trust be his Fault if we do not inherit Freedom & Independence of all wicked powers in the Life to come.

In a few Words I beg your Interest & Attention for Mr McCurdy and am with much Friendship. Your aff.

Thomas Mifflin

GENERAL SULLIVAN TO GENERAL WAYNE.

Head Quarters Novemb 8 1778

Dear General

I had the pleasure of your favor by Doctr Tillotson & have waited in Expectation of answering it by himself he now Sets out for your Quarter & will Deliver this to you. I have found him in Every Respect that agreeable Faithful & Sociable Gentleman you described

one part of Your Letter gave me much pain which Contained these words viz "we once were

Friends" The implication in those words was too Strong not to Strike my attention & I Soon Guessd y^e^ meaning but believe me my D^r^ Sir that the Little Sallies of passion which often occur in human Life The Difference of Judgment which often happens among men who Act themselves or Even some few Instances of Indiscretions if I had Ever Discovered Such in General Waine (which I Confess I have not) could not have occasioned my forgetting his Efforts to Serve his Country and give Satisfaction to those who have had the Honor to Command him. I have had the pleasure of being Acquainted with your military Talents Since the Campaign in Canada & cannot without being Guilty of Ingratitude forget that you were once Deservedly my friend nor could I pardon myself at this time if I neglected to assure you by this opportunity That my friendship for & attachment to your person and Character have been Regularly Increasing without the Least Interruption. I have now the honor to assure you that I am with the

highest Esteem, Dear Sir your most
assured friend & Humble Serv^t^
Jn^o^ Sullivan

B Genl Waine

(Outside address)
(*on publick Service*)
Brigadier General Waine
Head Quarters
M G Sullivan

GENERAL WM. IRVINE TO GENERAL WAYNE.

Camp Smiths Clove July 10 1779—

Dear General

I returned here last night late—& found in General orders that Magonigle—who I had tryed at the Furnace was to be hanged this morning at ten oClock, I marched the whole Division to the Execution (, that were off duty), I cant say I ever felt pleased or happy before at the death or suffering of any poor Wretch—but what added to it was to see the head of a Corporal of the 1st Regt. who also left us at the furnace stuck up on the Gallows He was taken two nights ago by a party of Major Lees—who it seems were at first determined to kill all but on consultation or debate agreed to kill only one out of three—it fell to the Corporals lott—whose Head was Immediately carried to Camp on a pole by the two who escaped instant Death—these two Villains were of the same Regiment and have been tryed here this day—presume they will meet the same fate,—

I hope in future Death will be the punishment for all such—I planly see less will not do—poor Magonigle behaved well at his Death—Tho he said no more than that he forgave all the World —I hope this & few more examples will have a good effect—indeed our fellows behaved as well on the occasion as I could wish—

I have not only spoke to Doctor McKenzie but advised him to wait on you—I know if he can get an appointment as Director—or Chief Surgeon to the Corps—he will gladly stay with you

the Campaign—I also saw Doctor Skinner this day, who told me he would go & stay with Butler as his Surgeon—By order of His Excellency the Officers will meet this morning to devise some plan—or consult what will be best to do about the disputed Inlistments—which is the pretended cause of all this Mischief—General Smallwood has now got a fellow Confined—who formerly Deserted from us to the Enemy—came out lately & claimed the benefit of His Excellencys Proclamation—was pardoned Went to the Maryland line and there Inlisted several men for the King of England—Six of Whom—all of one Regt, actually went off—& others who detected him were to meet him in the Mountains leading to Haverstraw—where he said he had hard Money hid—Notwithstanding all this has been plumply proven by many Evidences—*it is thought he will escape with a hund lashes*, Should this be the case & a practice made of letting off such atrocious offenders there is an end of Service—we may as well drop the matter & discharge all at once with some Grace—however this I scarce think possible, and hope shold such a stupid sentence have taken place—the General will not think of Confirming it.

I am Dear Genl
Yours Sincerely
Wm Irvine

Genl Wayne

The Rascal who was Recruiting in the Maryland line formerly belonged to the Congress Regt :

—he promised several Commissions provided they took off a certain number to Rank in proportion

(Outside address)

Brigadier General An^y. Wayne
fav^t. by Doctor M^c. Kenzie
Fort Montgomery
W^m. Irwine

GENERAL WAYNE TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

Official Report of the Capture of Stony Point.

STONEY POINT 17th July 1779

Sir

I have now the honor of giving your Excellency a full & particular acc^t. of the Reduction of this post by the Light troops under my Command

On the 15^th Instant at 12, OClock we took up our line of March from Sandy Beach distant about 14 Miles from this place—the roads being exceeding bad & narrow & having to pass over high Mountains & thro' such deep Morasses and difficult defiles that we were Obliged the greatest part of the way to move in single files,—at 8, OClock in the evening the Van arrived at a M^r. *SpringSteels* within one Mile & a half of the Enemy's lines & formed into Columns as fast as they came up agreeable to the Order of Battle herewith transmitted, (vide Order)—Col° Febiger's & Col° Meigs's Regiments with Major Hull's detatchment formed the Right Column—Col°

Butler's Regiment and Major Murphy's two Companies the Left

The troops remained in this position until several of the Principal Officers with myself had returned from Reconnoitring the Works,—at half after Eleven (being the hour fixed on) the whole moved forward—the Van of the Right was Composed of One Hundred & fifty Volunteers properly Officered with fixed Bayonets & Unloaded Muskets, under the Command of Lieut Colº Fleury preceded by twenty picked men headed by a vigilant Officer to remove the Abbatis & other Obstructions

The Van of the Left consisted of One Hundred Volunteers also with fixed Bayonets & unloaded Muskets under the Conduct of Major Steward these were likewise preceded by twenty men under a Brave & Determined Officer

At 12 OClock the assault was to begin on the Right & left flanks of the Enemy's Works,—& Major Murphey to amuse them in front,—but from the Obstructions thrown in our way & a deep Morass surrounding their whole front and overflowed by the tide rendering the Approaches more difficult than at first apprehended, it was about twenty minutes after twelve before the assault began—previous to which I placed myself at the Head of Febiger's Regiment or Right Column & gave the troops the most pointed Orders not to Attempt to fire, but put their whole dependance on the Bayonet—which was most faithfully & Literally obeyed,—neither the deep morass, the formidable & double rows of Abbatis or the

high and strong works in front & flank could damp the Ardor of the troops—who in the face of a most tremendous & Incessant fire of Musketry, & from Artillery loaded with shells & Grape shot forced their way at the point of the Bayonet thro' every Obsticle,—both Columns meeting in the Centre of the Enemy's works nearly at the same Instant

too much praise cannot be given to Lieut Colonel Fleury (who struck the enemy's Standard with his own hand) & to Major Steward who Commanded the Advanced parties, for their brave & prudent Conduct, Colonels Butler, Meigs, & Febiger conducted themselves with that coolness, bravery & perseverance that ever will ensure success; Lieut. Col° Hay was wounded in the thigh bravely fighting at the head of his Battalion:—I should take up too much of your Excellency's time was I to particularise every Individual who deserves it for his bravery on this Occasion, however, I must acknowledge myself Indebted to Major Lee for the frequent and useful Intelligence he gave me & which Contributed much to the Success of this enterprize,—& it's with the greatest pleasure I acknowledge to you that I was Supported in the attack by all the Officers & Soldiers to the utmost of my wishes, & Return my thanks to the Officers & privates of Artillery for their alertness in turning the Cannon against the Enemy's works at Verplanks point & their Shiping which slipt their cables and Immediately droped down the River

I should be wanting in gratitude was I to omit mentioning Cap^{t} Fishbourn & M^{r} Archer my two aids De Camp, who on every Occasion shewed the greatest Intripidity & Supported me into the Works after I had rec^{d} my wound in passing the last Abbatis—

Enclosed are Returns of the killed & wounded belonging to the Light Corps, as also that of the enemy together with the number of prisoners taken, Likewise of the Ordnance & Stores found in the Garrison

I had forgot to Inform your Excellency that previous to the assault I had ordered Genl Muchlingburg into my rear who with three hundred men of his Brigade took post on the Opposite side of the Marsh, so as to be in readiness either to Support us, or to cover a Retreat in case of accident, & have not the least doubt of his faithfully & Effectually executing either had there been an Occasion for it

the Humanity of our brave soldiery who scorned to take the lives of vanquished foe's calling for mercy reflects the highest Honor on them & accounts for so few of the Enemy being killed on the Occasion

I am not fully satisfied with the manner in which I have mentioned Lieu^{t} Gibbons of the 6th & Lieu^{t} Knox of the 9th Penns^{a} Regiments, the two gentlemen who led the advanced parties of each Column—the first had 17 men killed & wounded out of twenty—the latter tho' not quite so unfortunate in that Respect was nevertheless equally exposed—they both behaved

with an Intrepidity & address that would have given Credit to the oldest Soldier,

I have the honor to be with Singular Respect

Your Excellency's most Obt & very
Humⁱ Sevᵗ
Antʸ Wayne

His Excellency
Genˡ Washington

GENERAL PUTNAM TO GENERAL WAYNE.

Camp Butter Milk falls
July 22. 1779

Sir

The General Officers are now assembled at my Quarters, & only wait for you to proceed on the business pointed out by his Excellency the Commander in Cheif—As you was notified of this yesterday, I hoped they would not have been delay'd on this account—Should be glad you would attend immediately if possible as the Gentlemen think they cannot transact the business without you, & some of them are far from their Quarters, & consequently a delay will be very inconvenient for them.

I am Sir
Your most Obedᵗ &
very Hble Servᵗ
Israel Putnam M G

P.S. If Gen^{l} Wayne is not with the Light Troops I desire the Senior Officer will attend—

(Outside address)
To
Brig^{r} Gen^{l} Wayne
or Commanding Officer
of the
Light Troops

GENERAL WASHINGTON TO GENERAL WAYNE.

West-point July 30th 1779

Dear Sir;

Your favor of this date came duly to hand—I shall certainly not undertake anything (capital) without your knowledge—I wish for your opinion as a friend—not as a commanding officer of the light Troops—whether another attempt upon Stoney point, by way of surprize, is eligible—(In any other manner under present appearances, and information, no good, I am sure, can result from it).—

Lord Cornwallis is undoubtedly arrived, and I have information that bears all the marks of authenticity, that Admiral Arbuthnot with the grand fleet left Torbay the 26th of May, with (as it is said) 7000 Troops, Hessians and British, for America—A deserter who left the City of New York on Tuesday last says, it was reported that a number of Transports had arrived at Sandy Hook —Firing he himself heard—I have not heard, nor

is it my belief, that Lord Cornwallis supercedes Sir Harry.

I am very sincerely and
Affectionately—Dr Sir
Yrs Go Washington.

(Outside address)

Brigr. Genl. Wayne,
New-Windsor
Go. Washington

GENERAL SCHUYLER TO GENERAL WAYNE.

Saratoga July 30th 1779

Dear Sir

Yesterday I was honored with a line from our Amiable General advising me of the reduction of Stoney point and dwelling on the propriety and Bravery with which It was Executed.—It was not the least part of my satisfaction to hear that You Conducted It And I most Sincerely Congratulate you on the Increase of honor you have Acquired, Such of the Enemy as have hitherto held Erroneous Ideas of the Military prowess of our troops must now be perfectly Convinced of their mistake.—

Pray make not my Compliments only but my Love to St Clair and do you and he continue Yours For that Great good man to whom we are so much Indebted—

Remember me to Your family In which I In-

clude those I have been happy with at Your Quarters

adieu

I am Dear Sir

Most Sincerely Your

Obedient Servant

P SCHUYLER

A Slight remains of an Indisposition prevents me from a visit to the Army I hope however soon to have the pleasure of seeing You

BR: GEN. WAYNE.

CHARLES LEE TO GENERAL WAYNE.

BERKLEY COUNTY, August ye 11th 1779

Sir—

You will do me the justice to acknowledge that at the time I was taught to think (I am sure without foundation) that you were one of the most active in my prosecution I gave it as my opinion that you were a brave Officer and honest Man—You must likewise recollect that when you sent me a certain Message at Elizabeth Town I told you that if I was appointed to a command, and had my choice of Brigadiers, you should be one of my first election—I hope therefore that what I am going to say you will not consider as paying my court in this your hour of glory, for as it is at least my present intention to leave this Continent, where I have been so scurvily and ungratefully treated, I can have no interest in paying my court to any Individual—What I shall

say therefore is dictated by the genuine feelings of my heart—I do most sincerely declare that your action on the assault of Stony Point is not only the most brilliant, in my opinion, through the whole course of this War on either side, but that it is one of the most brilliant I am acquainted with in history—Upon my soul, the assault of Sweidnitz by Marshal Laudon I think inferior to it—I wish you therefore most sincerely joy of the laurels you have deservedly acquird, and that you may long live to wear—and if you have leisure (as I am curious in these details) to inform me of the particular order of your disposition you will much oblige one who is without flattery with respect and no small admiration Your most obedt humble Servt

CHARLES LEE.

(Outside address)

Brig'r General Wayne
Philadelphia

GENERAL WAYNE TO GENERAL SCHUYLER.

LIGHT INFANTRY CAMP near
FORT MONT'Y Sep^{r} 24th 1779

Dear Sir

Among the many Congratulatory letters which I have rec^{d} from different Quarters on the Reduction of Stoney Point, I met with none which gave me one half the pleasure I experienced from yours of the 31st July—because I know it to be the effects of friendship, as it's strongly marked with that *Character*,

If I have fought with some success the consciousness of having endeavoured to do my duty, added to the Approbation of my friends—*such friends as you*—is to me a rich reward

I must now beg your pardon for not acknowledging it sooner—but you are to blame yourself for the Omission—& give me leave to Insist on your Compliance with your promise of visiting the Light Corps—it is a debt which of all Others I can never agree to Compound for—I therefore in the most serious manner call on you for Instant payment.

Interim believe me with every

Sentiment of Esteem yours
Most Sincerely

ANT^Y WAYNE

MAJOR GEN^L SCHUYLER

GENERAL WAYNE TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

CAMP AT STEENROPIA 10^th^ Sep^r 1780

Sir

When your Excellency was pleased to lay a state of matters before the Council of War the 6^th^ of June, the prospects were extremely flattering,—we had great expectations from the promised succours by his most Christian Majesty—as well as from the exertions of these States

upon this ground I did myself the honor of giving an opinion to your Excellency in writing of what I *then* thought the most feasible & proper point of Co-operation, but the Interven-

tion of a Superior fleet to that of our Allies in these seas—the blockade of *Brest*—in which port the second Division intended for America is shut up—& the tedious delay of Operation in the West Indies—together with the Defficiency of promised aid & Supplies in the United States, have materially altered the Complexion of Affairs

from a comparative view of the strength of the Armies under the Immediate Command of your Excellency—& that of S^r^ Henry Clinton, I find the numbers rather in favor of the Enemy, —the recent Military check we recd in South Carolina has given Lord Cornwallis a decided Superiority in that Quarter,—at *Penobscut* the enemy appear well Established—& in Canada a Combined Operation can not take place until another season

could any Period be fixed for the Arrival of a fleet either from Europe or the West Indies so as to give our Allies the Sovereignty of these Seas —I should not be at a loss in giving an Opinion on this Occasion—but as this is only Problematical or at most Eventual—I must acknowledge that I see nothing but a choice of Difficulties left to Determine upon—among others that of experiencing every extreme of Distress at this stage of the Campaign for want of Provisions is of the most Alarming Nature, & would of itself be sufficient to defeat any the best plan in the power of a General to Devise

In full confidence that Supplies of every kind will be more regular in future—& in the presumption that the *french forces* now at Rhode

Island, are subject to your Excellency's Command—I would advise you (in the absence of the British fleet) to order the troops to form a Junction with you the soonest possible, sending the Shipping round to Boston Harbour—where if I am rightly Informed they may ride secure and without danger of being attacked, as the Enemy dare not Detatch their fleet & Operating Land force—to so great a Distance whilst your Excellency remains in the Vicinity of New York at the Head of a Combined & puissant Army ready to seize the first Opening to enter where the Enemy may be deemed most Vulnerable

I also am lead to this Opinion on the eventual arrival of a Naval & perhaps Land force—in time to Operate with effect—against that place—which will be much forwarded by these troops being near the point of Action—a move of this nature will at all events leave it in your Excellency's power to make a Detatchment towards the Southward in some Degree adequate to the Magnitude of the Object,—& yet be in a Condition to afford cover to the Country—until the arrival of Re-enforcements from Europe or the West Indies—which may give you an Opportunity to Operate either in this Quarter or at Charles town as Circumstances might then Offer, —& if disappointed in this—you'l be able to maintain your Ground free from Insult until the States have time to recruit their Army for the War & to bring them into the field Properly appointed & duly rationed, which is the only measure that can save this Country from Impending ruin,

the Junction of these troops will also afford a favorable opening for entering Canada by the Lake Champlain during the Winter, should the situation of Affairs render that an Adviseable Object, nor will the troops of france experience those Difficulties that we have been subject to,—their *hard Cash* will always Command a Redundancy of every necessary in a Country,—not so much exhausted with respect to Supplies,—as in want of faith in our paper Currency

I am further stimulated to this advice by the apparent preparation for an Embarkation of troops both horse & foot at New York—which may give the wished for opening to Carry that City whilst the attention of S^{r} Henry Clinton is drawn to some other Quarter—on the presumption that your force will not be adequate to enterprise anything against that post at this late season,—& that the french will remain in their present position—nor shall I be disappointed if Adm^{l} Arbouthnot with the bulk of his Fleet should favor the Operations of S^{r} Harry on the same ground, in full expectation of returning in time to prevent any serious Consequences taking place during a temporary Absence

Upon the whole I am fully of Opinion that without a Change of Circumstances our present force is not adequate to act in an Open Offensive manner,—yet by one of these Delicate eventual manœuvres sometimes practiced—we might cause the Enemy to Commit themselves in a point of which Advantage may be taken, & pushed with effect, but this is an Idea yet in

embryo—which when mature I shall do myself the honor of Communicating *Viva Voce*

I also think that you can not make any considerable Detatchment—until the Junction already mentioned takes place: or until the Enemy Detatch on their part. which may very soon be the case, & probably by that time—we may have it in our power to proceed to Charles town. by water—an event devoutly to be wished—as a March by land must naturally reduce the troops at least one third—occasioned by Desertion sickness and other Casualties incident to all Armies during a tedious & Distant tour

I have the honor to be your Excellency's
Most Obt
and very
Hum Servt
ANTY WAYNE

HIS EXCELLENCY
GENL WASHINGTON

LAFAYETTE TO GENERAL WAYNE.

ON BOARD THE SLOOP DOLPHIN AT THE MOUTH OF ELK RIVER March the 9th 1781

My Dear Sir

When your favor of the 7h Came to Hand we were just embarked for our Voyage, and Before I am launched into the Bay, I will answer to the articles which your letter Contains

The place of debarkation, My dear friend, is as I told you at philadelphia, in some place about portsmouth which will Be determined on our Arrival at Hampton Road—There I Hope to Meet some of our Allies, and immediately to Act Against the forces under Arnold

our little fleet under Convoy of Armed Vessels is going to Annapolis where I Hope to be met By a french frigat—But the general directs me to keep this plan very secret.

By what you write to me, My dear Sir, you Cannot Have a detachement Ready at Head of Elk Before the 20th, and your presence May Be wanting to put the others in Motion—But I would Be very desirous of Availing Myself of your Advices and exertions as soon as you Could make up any detachement whatsoever—When on the other Hand, in Case we make a *Coup de main* of the attack at portsmouth I would not Have you to take the trouble of going to the purpose to much out of your Way

I will Be at portsmouth and a letter May Be Back at the Head of Elk Before you Can possibly move a body of 400 men—from my Conversation with the Commanders of french forces I may Be able to know if you Have Time to join us, and the intelligence will Be immediately forwarded—I think a good place for your Rendezvous would be such a one as May Conduct you to Virginia Both By Alexandria and Head of Elk—But am to far from Hoping that your Troops May Arrive in Time, that I would Be sorry too much to divert your at-

tention from the first object of your destination

With the Most sincere affection and Regard
I Have the Honor to be Dear Sir
Yours

LAFAYETTE

Be pleased to let the quarter master at Head of Elk know where He is to send my letter to you

GENERAL GREENE TO GENERAL WAYNE.

HEADQUARTERS
CHARLES TOWN June 26th 1783

Dear Sir

I have had the pleasure of receiving two letters from you since you left this place one from Augusta the other from Savannah. The grant of the Cherokees I imagine will be of but little consequence if the Creeks continue to disclaim their right of granting. An Indian war I expect will be the consequence and if Georgia is not aided by the neighboring states or the force of the State greatly increased by new settlers the indians will contend upon no very unequal footing. I wish all these matters were to be settled by Commissioners from Congress Both parties perhaps would be better satisfied. It is pretty certain there would be less reason for disputes.

Congress have forwarded me a resolution for furloughing the Army; and orders are gone out for the purpose. Major Habersham has a copy of the orders and the resolution. Transport are

hourly expected to take the Northern Troops to the respective States to which they belong where both Men and Officers are to be furloughed until the signing of the definitive treaty and then to be discharged.

What has become of the Virginia Infantry you took with you? Have they gone to Virginia on the uper route or are they to join here again?

Since you left us there has been great uneasiness among the Troops from an impatience to get home The terrors of the climate and the discontent natural to idleness has produced great desertions: and near one half the 3^{d} Regiment of Cavalry went off in a body.

All our Waggons and public Stores in the Quarter Masters department are sold. Our Military Stores are depositing in the Magazine of this State and all our arrangements are drawing to a close. I expect to leave this place in less than a month for Philadelphia. What can Governor Tonyn mean by his extraordinary conduct? It must be the effects of temper; and not the result of orders. However Congress have remonstrated against the conduct of the british Generals in withholding the property of the people of the United States contrary to treaty.

Dueling thrives apace here. Cap Pendleton and M^{r} Waters have been out the latter got wounded the former not. Col. Easton has been out with a M^{r} Rule: but the matter was accomodated on the ground. Disputes have run high among a number more; but the intervention of friends prevented a serious appeal to heaven.

Mrs Greene sailed for Philadelphia about fortnight since and left her good wishes for you on your return. How is Major Fishbourn? We hear he has been at deaths door and gave a soft tap but was not admitted. Present me respectfully to all friends in Georgia and believe me to be with esteem and affection your

Most obedt
humble Servt
NATH GREENE.

GENERAL WAYNE.

GENERAL WINFIELD SCOTT TO GENERAL PERSIFER F. SMITH.

AUGUSTA, GEO. May 27, 1836.

My dear Colonel or rather General:

I am bound to the Chatahoochee to take upon myself the direction of the war against the Creeks. Would to God that I had you & your effective corps to assist in putting down this new enemy. With him we shall certainly have a fight. He cannot escape & lose himself in hammocks, Savannahs, cypress swamps, ever glades, etc.

I received your report & in sending it to the War Department made an endorsement to this effect:

The only objection to this report is the disparaging manner in which the gallant colonel speaks of himself. He is a first rate officer, & has gone as far in the expedition entrusted to him,

& covered as much ground as I had expected. No doubt he was as much distressed at not finding an enemy as I am disappointed in that particular.

Do not miscontrue my letter to the Adjutant General of the 30th ultimo that has been published. See my reply to Capt. Robertson of this place, dated yesterday, & which is published.

In great haste

Very truly yr friend

WINFIELD SCOTT.

I have just written to friend Lawson to join me with all speed.

W. S.

GEN^L. PERSIFER F. SMITH

&c &c &c.

(Outside address)

To

General P. F. Smith

Adjutant Gen^l.

of Louisiana,

New Orleans.

GENERAL GEORGE B. McCLELLAN TO GENERAL P. F. SMITH.

WEST POINT N. Y. Sept. 21^st 1848

My dear General,

It appears that an Engineer Officer is to be detailed for duty in Oregon, to report to you & accompany you on your march next Spring; as I am quite tired of civilization, and am very anxious to go with you, I take the liberty of

asking you whether you would have any objection to having me in that position—I take it for granted that if there is any other Engr. Officer whom you would prefer, that you will tell me at once, & I'll have no more to say on the subject. Gibbs tells me that you are going to Washington as soon as the Sectry. of War returns, will I be asking too much of you, if you are willing to have me, in requesting you to apply to the Sectry and *to Gen. Totten* for me. I do not suppose that there will be very many applicants for Oregon, so that I anticipate little or no difficulty in the matter. I suppose that I shall have to go in that direction *anyhow* at some period during the next 10 or 15 years, and I should prefer going now whilst young & having the disposition to lead an active life.

I can't say how much I'll be obliged to you, General, if you will push the matter & take me with you "for better & worse."

Your namesake, whose name you never could remember, is still here, and well.

Everyone here says that you must come on to see us, I know that you would be pleased to see something of the Academy, & you will find here some of the "Old Division."

Please give my best respects to Mrs. Smith
and believe me to be
your most obdt servant
GEO B MCCLELLAN
Lt of Engrs.

PRESIDENT TAYLOR TO GENERAL P. F. SMITH.

WASHINGTON, April 2/49

Dear General,

You will doubtless learn before this can reach you, that Congress has adjourned without making any adequate provision for the formation of a Government or the establishment of our laws in California. It is greatly deplored by moderate men of all parties that nothing has been done to meet the wants of that country, now filling rapidly up with a hardy and enterprising population, and among the most important duties presented to the administration is that of facilitating and hastening by all the legitimate means at its command, the organization of a state government in California with a view to the establishment of law and order in that country and its early admission into the Union.

In the absence of a civil government, it will doubtless be in your power as senior officer of the troops quartered in California to do much in promoting an end so desirable, not only to the people of that country, but for particular reasons, to all well-wishers of the Union at home. The Government confidently relies upon your well-known patriotism to exert in that behalf the influence which your reputation, your abilities and high character cannot fail to give you.

This letter will be handed you by the Hon. T. Butler King, who has been employed by the government to proceed to California for the purpose of collecting statistical information to the country and its population, and particularly

to encourage the speedy organization of a government and the adoption of necessary laws for the protection of life and property. Mr. King is too well and favorably known to render it necessary for me to recommend him personally to your kind attention. He will confer with you in regard to the objects of his mission and I have to request that you will furnish him and his party such escorts and transportation as he may require in moving from place to place, and afford him generally every aid and facility in your power that may assist him in carrying out the instructions of the Government.

We are anxious to hear of the safe arrival of Mrs. Smith and yourself in California and hope you will find the climate & country agreeable. We were gratified to see that you had reached Acapulco and other Mexican ports without accident.

With my kind regards to your lady and best wishes for yourself,

I remain Yrs. very truly,

Z. TAYLOR.

MAJ. GEN^{L} P. F. SMITH, U. S. A.
Commanding in California,
San Francisco,
Cal.

JEFFERSON DAVIS TO GENERAL P. F. SMITH.

War Department
Washington Sept. 3d. 1856

Sir,

Your dispatch of 22d August and its enclosures sufficiently exhibit the inadequacy of the force under your command to perform the duties which have been devolved upon you in the present unhappy condition of Kansas by the orders and instructions heretofore communicated. To meet this exigency the President has directed the Governor of the Territory to complete the enrolment and organization of the militia, as you will find fully set forth in the enclosed copy of a letter addressed to him by the Secretary of State; and the President has directed me to say to you that you are authorized, from time to time, to make requisitions upon the Governor for such militia force as you may require to enable you promptly and successfully to execute your orders and suppress insurrection against the government of the Territory of Kansas, and, under the circumstances heretofore set forth in your instructions, to give the requisite aid to the officers of the civil government who may be obstructed in the due execution of the law. Should you not be able to derive from the militia of Kansas the adequate force for these purposes, such additional number of militia as may be necessary, will be drawn from the States of Illinois and Kentucky, as shown in the requisition, copy of which is here enclosed.

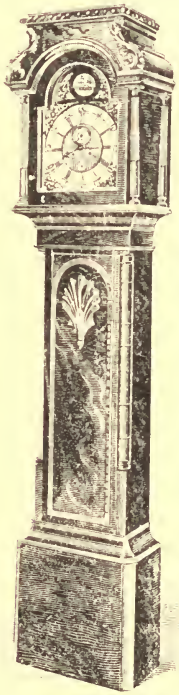
The views contained in your instructions to the officers commanding the troops, under date of August 19: are fully approved, and accord so entirely with the purposes of the Executive as to leave but little to add in relation to the course which it is desired you should pursue. The position of the insurgents, as shown by your letter and its enclosures, is that of open rebellion against the laws and constitutional authorities, with such manifestation of a purpose to spread devastation over the land as no longer justifies further hesitation or indulgence. To you, as to every soldier, whose habitual feeling is to protect the citizens of his own country, and only to use his arms against a public enemy, it cannot be otherwise than deeply painful to be brought into conflict with any portion of his fellow countrymen. But, patriotism and humanity alike require that rebellion should be promptly crushed, and the perpetration of the crimes which now disturb the peace and security of the good people of the Territory of Kansas, should be effectually checked. You will, therefore, energetically employ all the means within your reach to restore the supremacy of law, always endeavoring to carry out your present purpose to prevent the unnecessary effusion of blood.

In making your requisitions for militia force, you will be governed by the existing organization of the Army and the laws made and provided in such cases. When companies, regiments, brigades, or divisions, are presented to be mustered into the Service of the United States,

you will cause them before they are received to be minutely inspected by an officer of your command, appointed for the purpose.

Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt,
JEFFN. DAVIS
Secretary of War,

MAJOR GENERAL PERSIFER F. SMITH
Comdg. Dept of the West



FRANKLIN'S CLOCK.

Bought by Benjamin Price, of West Chester, at a sale of Benjamin Franklin's effects. Now the property of the West Chester State Normal School.

THIS BOOK IS DUE ON THE LAST DATE STAMPED BELOW

AN INITIAL FINE OF 25 CENTS

WILL BE ASSESSED FOR FAILURE TO RETURN THIS BOOK ON THE DATE DUE. THE PENALTY WILL INCREASE TO 50 CENTS ON THE FOURTH DAY AND TO $1.00 ON THE SEVENTH DAY OVERDUE.

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